

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

March 6, 2020

Around the Square

Robocall Initiative

Attorney General Dave Yost announced Wednesday that the state will pursue lawsuits against illegal automated phone soliciting agencies. The Office of the Attorney General will establish a RoboCall Enforcement Unit consisting of attorneys and investigators, but Yost requested the help of consumers to help identify the origins of these calls. Complaints can be filed by texting ROBO to 888111, calling 1-800-282-0515, or visiting the AG's website at OhioProtects.org. In conjunction with AG Yost's efforts, Senator Dave Burke will be introducing legislation that grants prosecutors increased authority to crack down on illegal operations disseminating these calls.

Political News and Notes

Ohio Businesses Booming

Ohio was home to more new corporate facility projects per capita than any other state in 2019. With 448 qualifying projects, Ohio was second only to Texas's 859 in overall number of new projects. To qualify, projects were required to have at least a \$1 million dollars in initial investment, provide at least 20 new jobs, or develop 20,000 square feet of new space. Gov. DeWine lauded a talented workforce, central location, and vibrant business atmosphere for attracting new business and expansion in Ohio.

Family Housing Tax Credit

The Senate passed legislation Wednesday that will ultimately allow owners of newly constructed single family homes to apply for property tax exemptions for up to 10 years of residence. Townships and municipalities can now designate Neighborhood Development Areas wherein residents can apply for the exemptions. Incremental value exemptions will also be available for homeowners who renovate their homes within a Neighborhood Development Area.

The Arnold Classic and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This weekend, Columbus will host the annual Arnold Sports Festival, an event that typically attracts over 200,000 individuals from around the world into the city. This year however, the public health concerns associated with international travel and coronavirus (COVID-19) have imposed limitations on the highly-anticipated festivities. Governor DeWine, Mayor Ginther, and Arnold Schwarzenegger himself have all announced that spectators will be prohibited from attending the various competitions over the weekend until the final day. Athletes from 5 countries, China, Italy, Iran, Japan, and South Korea have been banned from the competition as well. In addition, the Expo portion of the weekend will be postponed until a later date when organizers and city officials feel better equipped to mitigate the risk of such a large tourist influx.

Gov. DeWine assembled a summit to address the preparedness of local health officials across the state for the coronavirus. This Thursday, several doctors and medical officers met with the Governor to solidify a coherent response and a strategy to protect vulnerable populations should the virus find its way into Ohio. So far, there are no confirmed cases of the virus in Ohio, while a number of individuals under suspicion have tested negative.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.

This Week's Bills

HB 528 - Reinsurance: To amend the law related to insurers receiving credit for reinsurance.

HB 529 - School Audits: To require one-time performance audits of school districts with a current academic distress commission.

HB 530 - Retirement Systems: Regarding state retirement system fiduciary duties, Public Employees Retirement System management fees and employee pay, and creating the Committee on Pension Salaries and Fees.

HB 531 - JobsOhio: To establish that JobsOhio must submit to audits by the Auditor of State, and that an audit of JobsOhio must include an audit of the revenues, receipts, and expenditures of JobsOhio associated with the enterprise acquisition project.

HB 532 - Education Standards: To require the State Board of Education to adopt standards for mental health education, to permit school districts to include mental health education in their curriculum, and to make an appropriation.

HB 533 - Women's Commission: To create the Women's Policy and Research Commission and the Women's Policy and Research Center, to specify their powers and duties, and to make an appropriation.

HB 534 - Workers' Compensation: Regarding identifying information in the medical management of workers' compensation claims.

HB 535 - Hair Styles: To enact the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act to prohibit discrimination against an individual based on hair texture and protective hair styles.

HB 536 - Call Centers: To enact the Consumer Protection Call Center Act regarding the eligibility of employers that relocate a call center to a foreign country to receive state grants, loans, and other benefits.

HB 537 - License Plate: To create the "Fallen Timbers Battlefield" license plate.

HB 538 - Abortion: To enact the Human Life Protection Act to prohibit abortions based upon a condition precedent.

SB 289 - Planned Communities: Regarding condominiums and planned community properties.

SB 290 - Criminal Trespassing: To amend the law governing criminal trespass to specify that placing purple paint marks on trees or posts constitutes posting notice in a manner reasonably calculated to come to the attention of potential intruders.

SB 291 - Vehicle Fees: To provide for the proration of the plug-in electric and hybrid motor vehicle registration fees.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.